From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Google Said to Be Revamping Lobbying Efforts Amid Increased Government Scrutiny
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 5:15:57 AM

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By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- Google fired roughly half a dozen of its largest lobbying firms - in addition to shaking up its internal policy team's organization and adjusting to the loss of two senior officials - as a part of an overhaul of its lobbying efforts as Washington's interest in tech industry antitrust regulation grows, according to people familiar with the company's strategy. The moves are seen as a part of a restructuring effort by Google policy chief Karan Bhatia, the people said, with longtime Republican strategist Charlie Black and Off Hill Strategies LLC among the groups no longer lobbying for the major tech company. (

The Wall Street Journal)

- Instagram said it would treat a manipulated video of Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg in "the same way" the platform would "treat all misinformation," noting that it will only filter it out if its third-party fact-checkers flag the content as false. In the video, created by artists Bill Posters and Daniel Howe working with the advertising company Canny, Zuckerberg's likeness was edited to make it appear as if he is giving a speech about his company's power during a news broadcast; however, the content is actually a distorted version of a September 2017 address from Zuckerberg about Russian election interference on Facebook's platforms. (Motherboard)

- Google has been moving production of some of its Nest smart thermostats devices and server hardware away from China to Taiwan and Malaysia in an effort to avoid any financial repercussions from the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, according to people familiar with the matter. The move follows a similar one from Apple Inc. partner Foxconn Technology Group, which said earlier this week that it has enough manufacturing capacity outside of China to make iPhones in a different location if needed. (Bloomberg)

Chart Review

Where all the robocalls are coming from
Axios

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

06/12/2019

Code Conference 2019

Cisco Live 2019

Uber Elevate Summit 2019

Entertainment Software Association's E3 expo

In-Building Congress	
RightsCon	
New York Times' New Rules Summit	
FTC's final hearing in its competition and consumer protection series, feat. a roundtable with state attorneys general	8:30 am
Senate Commerce Committee's FCC oversight hearing	10:00 am
FCC's tribal workshop in Oklahoma	

06/13/2019

Cisco Live 2019	
FCC's tribal workshop in Oklahoma	
Entertainment Software Association's E3 expo	
New York Times' New Rules Summit	
RightsCon	
The Information's 2019 Autonomous Vehicles Summit	8:30 am
House Intelligence Committee's hearing on national security and artificial intelligence, manipulated media and deepfakes	9:00 am

06/14/2019

RightsCon

View full calendar

Track Your Brand's Reputation in China

Morning Consult surveys more than 2,000 consumers in China every week to provide brands with the data intelligence needed to track how geo-political conflict is affecting their brand and their business.

Start tracking in China now →

General

Huawei says it's scrapping laptop launch because of US blacklisting
Arjun Kharpal, CNBC

Chinese tech giant Huawei has scrapped the launch of new laptop as a result of being effectively barred from doing business with American suppliers. It's the first product launch the company has cancelled as a result of being put on a blacklist restricting its access to U.S. technology.

Defense Contractors Join Forces as Pentagon Spending Slows
Doug Cameron and Ben Kesling, The Wall Street Journal

A merger that would be the aerospace-and-defense industry's biggest ever caps two years of deal making in a sector that is reorganizing in anticipation of slower growth in Pentagon spending and new priorities such as space systems and hypersonic missiles. United Technologies Inc. and Raytheon Co. would be the third-biggest aerospace-and-defense company by sales after Boeing Co. and Airbus SE.

Chinese Cash That Powered Silicon Valley Is Suddenly Toxic
Rolfe Winkler, The Wall Street Journal

Silicon Valley startup Pilot AI Labs Inc. signed a Chinese-backed venture-capital firm as its first big investor in 2015. By last summer, Pilot AI wanted it gone.

Immigration advocacy group says the tech industry deserves 'a lot of blame'
Sara Ashley O'Brien, CNN

An immigrant advocacy organization is pointing fingers at the tech industry for helping the United States government carry out its controversial immigration policies at the US-Mexico border. Onstage at Recode's Code Conference on Tuesday, RAICES CEO Jonathan Ryan said "the tech industry deserves a lot of blame for what is happening at our borders and assisting and enabling our government to bring to scale and into more efficiency this devastating violation of human rights."

Volkswagen breaks with Silicon Valley self-driving start-up Aurora
Patrick McGee, Financial Times

Volkswagen has ended its relationship with Aurora, the Silicon Valley self-

driving start-up backed by Amazon, paving the way for the world's largest carmaker to enter into partnership with Ford's autonomous unit Argo AI. The move follows VW and Ford's launch of a new global alliance in January to develop some future vehicles together as they prepare for a new age of electric and self-driving cars.

US Lawmakers Want An Examination of The US Money Funding Surveillance Tech in China
Ryan Mac, BuzzFeed News

Following a report from BuzzFeed News, Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Tom Suozzi want to scrutinize the ties between US institutional investors and two successful Chinese facial recognition companies, SenseTime and Megvii.

Stock Rally Stalls as Treasuries Climb; Oil Drops: Markets Wrap
Todd White, Bloomberg

Stocks slipped globally on Wednesday alongside U.S. index futures amid signs the June revival in risk appetite may have overshot, with trade concerns still lingering. An escalating protest in Hong Kong compounded the negative sentiment, and Treasuries gained.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

U.S. House panel debates giving local news outlets 'lifeline' in ad fight
Cecilia Kang, The New York Times

A congressional investigation into the power of big tech companies began on Tuesday with bipartisan concern from lawmakers that the government's lax oversight of the industry may be doing more harm than good. In its first hearing about the power held by Google, Facebook, Amazon and Apple, lawmakers focused on the decline of the news industry.

The DOJ's antitrust chief just telegraphed exactly how it could go after Google, Apple and other big tech companies
Lauren Feiner, CNBC

The Department of Justice's assistant attorney general brought the case against big tech into focus in a new speech delivered at the Antitrust New Frontiers

Conference in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. Makan Delrahim laid out some possible arguments against the tech giants as his office is reportedly taking the lead on investigating Google parent company Alphabet and a potential probe into Apple.

Tech elites dismiss breakup threats from Washington
Nancy Scola, Politico

Top tech company executives are shrugging off the growing calls to split apart their companies gaining traction in capitals around the world. The idea that Silicon Valley's biggest companies should be broken apart has gotten momentum in recent months in both parties in Washington, as both Trump administration regulators and Democrats like Sen. Elizabeth Warren express interest in curbing the dominance of companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon.

Former leaders at Facebook, Google, and Twitter think regulation is coming for their old employers
Theodore Schleifer, Vox

Three people who have held senior roles at big tech companies all think that their former employers deserve more regulation - and maybe even to be broken up. In an interview with The Verge Silicon Valley editor Casey Newton at the Code Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on Tuesday, former leaders at Google, Facebook, and Twitter each voiced their concerns now that they're on the outside looking in.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Net neutrality has been dead for a year: What you need to know
Marguerite Reardon, CNET

It's been a year since the Obama-era net neutrality protections, which ensure all internet traffic is treated equally, were erased. Although the doom-and-gloom prediction of a broken internet hasn't yet come to pass, the future of the network is still very much in flux.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Prominent white supremacists are still on YouTube in wake of ban
Kaya Yurieff, CNN

Six days after YouTube said it would ban supremacist content and remove videos that deny well-documented atrocities like the Holocaust, accounts belonging to some of the most prominent purveyors of hate in the US, such as white supremacist Richard Spencer and former KKK leader David Duke, are still on the platform.

Mary Meeker's most important trends on the internet
Rani Molla, Recode

It's the holiday season for data nerds: That is, Mary Meeker is delivering her annual Internet Trends Report - the most highly anticipated slide deck in Silicon Valley - again at Code Conference 2019.

Apple Discusses Acquisition of Intel's German Modem Unit
Aaron Tilley, The Information

Apple is in talks to buy a key part of Intel's smartphone modem business-its German operations-in a deal that could boost the iPhone maker's plans to internally develop a modem for its devices, according to four people briefed on the discussions.

Pepe the Frog's creator just won a $15,000 copyright settlement against Infowars
Kayla Epstein, The Washington Post

Infowars was forced to pay $15,000 in a settlement to the creator of Pepe the Frog, a cartoon amphibian who had been co-opted as a meme by right-wing Internet users, after selling a poster that featured the character on its website. Pepe's creator, Matt Furie, had brought a copyright lawsuit against Alex Jones's website after it began selling posters that featured Pepe alongside personalities such as Milo Yiannopoulos, Roger Stone and Diamond and Silk.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Facebook's new Study app pays adults for data after teen scandal
Josh Constine, TechCrunch

Facebook shut down its Research and Onavo programs after TechCrunch exposed how the company paid teenagers for root access to their phones to gain market data on competitors. Now Facebook is relaunching its paid market research program, but this time with principles - namely transparency, fair compensation and safety.

McConnell: Senate will hold election security briefing
Jordain Carney, The Hill

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Tuesday said that the Senate will have an election security briefing in the wake of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Lawmakers demand answers on Border Patrol data breach
Maggie Miller, The Hill

Lawmakers are expressing alarm and demanding answers over a recent data breach involving U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the latest in a series of incidents that is underlining the severity of cybersecurity threats to both agencies and businesses.

Border Patrol Hack Shows How New Technology Makes Law Enforcement a Target
Alyssa Newcomb, Fortune

U.S. Customs and Border Protection collects a trove of data about travelers including photos, fingerprints, and details about social media accounts. Officials argue that the information helps prevent terrorists from entering the country, but it also opens the door to a serious problem: Hackers.

Radiohead release hours of hacked MiniDiscs to benefit Extinction Rebellion
Ben Beaumont-Thomas, The Guardian

Radiohead have released a vast collection of unreleased tracks made during the sessions for 1997 album OK Computer, after a MiniDisc archive owned by frontman Thom Yorke was hacked last week by an unnamed person, who reportedly asked for a $150,000 ransom to return the recordings.

The Biggest Data Breach Archive on the Internet Is for Sale
Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai, Motherboard

The well-known and respected data breach notification website "Have I Been Pwned" is up for sale. Troy Hunt, its founder and sole operator, announced the sale on Tuesday in a blog post where he explained why the time has come for Have I Been Pwned to become part of something bigger and more organized.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

A Better Approach to Universal Broadband
Tom Ferree, Morning Consult

The 2020 presidential race is here, and with it, national debates about the hot topics of the day - jobs, taxes and health care to name a few. Listen more closely, however, and you will hear presidential hopefuls discussing infrastructure and rural broadband.

Debating Net Neutrality: Big-Tech Monopolies Are the Real Problem
Jeremy Carl, National Review

The recent debates over Internet-related policymaking in Washington, D.C., increasingly resemble a funhouse world. Issues that are actually important, such as the monopoly market and speech-squelching power of big-tech firms such as Facebook and Twitter, are treated as peripheral.

You Care More About Your Privacy Than You Think
Charlie Warzel, The New York Times

I hear this all the time: "This all sounds pretty troubling, but how much do we really, truly care about our privacy? After all, we don't seem willing to stop using our phones or Facebook or Google."

Killing Competition in 5G
The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal

Ten Democratic state Attorneys General on Tuesday sued to block T-Mobile's merger with Sprint, and the timing was no coincidence. The Justice Department will soon make its decision on the merger, and Democrats, unions and big business are lining up to defeat it at the expense of America's leadership in 5G telecom networks.

Research Reports

Navigating the Digital Shift 2019: Equitable Opportunities for All Learners

State Educational Technology Directors Association

Access and opportunities to utilize digital resources for learning provide students with the necessary skills and connections to be successful learners and contribute to their own futures. With digital instructional materials students can experience learning that truly meets their individual needs and interests.

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